

NSC BRIEFING

19 May 1955

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AFGHAN CRISIS CONTINUES

- I. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and Turkey have either volunteered or been asked to help settle the Afghan-Pakistan dispute.
 - A. Only firm action to date, however, taken by Saudi Arabia, which has sent Mussaid, youthful uncle of King Saud, to Kabul and Karachi.
 - B. Saudi delegation arrived Kabul 14 May.
 - C. Pak ambassador there says Mussaid is suggesting both sides "forgive and forget" in best Islamic tradition, without any determination of guilt.
 - D. This certainly acceptable to Afghans.
- II. Mussaid peddling of same line in Karachi (where he arrived 16 May) proved totally unacceptable to Paks, who announced 19 May that Saudi mediation efforts had failed.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

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A. ~~Most~~ Near East mediators-elect appear

to side with Paks in recognizing Afghan
guilt.

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B. Paks expect quid-pro-quo for postponing
15 May ultimatum deadline.

III. Afghan prime minister Daud reported

to be deeply discouraged by
failure his actions (particularly army
mobilization) to inspire enthusiasm among
Afghan tribes.

A. Daud reported by both Saudi minister
and Egyptian ambassador in Kabul as
willing resign if Moslem nations find
against Pushtoonistan policy.

B. Attitude suggests Daud beginning see
folly his course, lays groundwork for
repudiation of Pushtoonistan.

C. Some indications, however, rest of
Afghan government encouraged by Saudi
attitude and attempting in last few days
to put up stronger front.

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~~D.~~ Believe Paks firmness and weight of

Near East opinion will eventually
wear down Afghan resistance.

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